

## **Assembly Bill No. 137**

### **CHAPTER 225**

An act to amend Section 33540 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

[Approved by Governor September 6, 2013. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 6, 2013.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 137, Buchanan. Pupil instruction: civics.

Existing law requires the Instructional Quality Commission to review and revise, as necessary, the course requirements in the history-social science framework to ensure that minimum standards for courses in American government and civics include certain matters.

This bill would additionally require the commission, when revising the history-social science framework, to ensure that these course requirements are also included in all history and social science courses and grade levels, as appropriate. The commission would also be required, whenever the history-social science framework is revised, to receive input from civics learning experts for the purpose of integrating civics learning content, concepts, and skills, at all appropriate grade levels, with the standards established by the State Board of Education in core curriculum areas, as specified, and to consider how civics and history instruction includes, at all appropriate grade levels, the application of that content.

The bill would make a statement of legislative intent with regard to the subsequent history-social science framework.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 33540 of the Education Code is amended to read:

33540. (a) The state board and the department shall request that the commission review and revise, as necessary, the course requirements in the history-social science framework developed by the History-Social Science Curriculum Framework and Criteria Committee of the state board to ensure that minimum standards for courses in American government and civics include sufficient attention to teaching pupils how to interact, in a practical manner, with state and local governmental agencies and representatives to solve problems and to petition for changes in laws and procedures and that these course requirements are also included in all history and social science courses and grade levels, as appropriate.

(b) Whenever the history-social science framework is revised as required by law, the commission shall do all of the following:

(1) Receive input from civics learning experts, including civics education program providers, associations of civics educators, and organizations dedicated to research on civics learning, for the purpose of integrating civics learning content, concepts, and skills, at all appropriate grade levels, with the standards established by the state board in core curriculum areas, as specified in Sections 60605 and 60605.8.

(2) Consider how civics and history instruction, at all appropriate grade levels, includes, in addition to the acquisition of content knowledge, the application of that content to develop the competence and skills needed for civic engagement.

(3) Ensure that the following historical documents are incorporated into the framework, as appropriate:

- (A) The Declaration of Independence.
- (B) The United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.
- (C) The Federalist Papers.
- (D) The Emancipation Proclamation.
- (E) The Gettysburg Address.
- (F) George Washington's Farewell Address.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature, for purposes of only the history-social science framework that is revised subsequent to the effective date of the act amending this section, that the requirements imposed pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (b) may be satisfied under the framework adoption procedures currently being utilized by the department as of January 1, 2014.